

The God of All Comfort 2 Cor 1:1-4
Dr. Warren Wiershe is one of my favorite authors. He has a series of books called the "Be" Books. The reason that they are called the "Be" Books is that Dr. Wiershe tries to sum up each entire book of the Bible with one word. For Example Ephesians "Be Rich" wealth in Christ Galatians "Be Free" freedom from the Law when in Christ. For 2 Cor it is "Be Encouraged" the nature of the book 2 Cor, "Encouragement". Encourage means - to fill w/ courage or strength of purpose. to spur on, the raising of one's confidence; instilling life energy courage or vigor into something an infusion of fresh courage or zeal. Sounds inviting. Although you can't find the word encourage in 2 Cor, you will find the key phrase comfort or consol. The GK word comfort or consolation means "called to one's side to help". We may all look like we're on mtn tops but that ain't always the case. Charles Spurgeon the great prince of preachers said... We all need encouragement comfort & consolation. Thank God we are not left alone. We have the God of all comfort to attend to the cry of His children. To lift us when we fall to our knees in prayer for His dear Son

I. He Provides Comfort for us in Our Limitations. vs 3b

A. Notice the phrase "the Father of mercies. Thank God that he is a God of mercies. Mercy is simply the withholding of that which is rightly deserved. Not just of Mercy but mercies in the plural since

B. He is the Extender of Mercy - All of us would agree w/ Rom 3:23. Despite our standing before God as children of God, justified in Christ, we continue to live in sinful flesh. Merciful in seasons of coldness, like warm living, cracked in conditions he is merciful. He extends mercy in situations we find our selves in. There has been many a time when I deserved Gods Judgment ^{received} on mercy

C. He is the Originator of Mercy - To the Jew the phrase father of meant the originator the source. In John 8:44 Satan is called the Father of lies. He is the originator. God our Father is the Source of all mercies, if there is any mercy to be had, it originates from Him. He freely dispenses mercy because He is the Originator of all mercies Bible commentator Berkett says →

D. He is the Example of Mercy - Who we look to to see such mercies exemplified on the human stage of time. The Lord Jesus. We see the mercies extended to the sick blind hunch back, to the sinful prostitute, the adulteress, the sinfully demon possessed. We see it at the cross where the flood tide of Gods wrath was held back with the merciful →

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Every Christian should draw from the comfort of God because of the three provisions God supplied here in 2 Corinthians Ch 1

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Burkett said, "all mercy flows from him only and freely, as streams from an overflowing and never-failing fountain."

Lamentations 3:22 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.*

In Neh. 9:19 God's mercies are manifold, in Ps 25:6, His mercies are tender, in Numbers 14:19 God's mercies are named great

Time and time again the Bible names his mercies as the "multitude of God's mercies"

...phrase father for give them for they know not what they do"...

Oh he is a God that as Micah 7:18 says: "...delighteth in mercy." He comforts us with mercy in our limitations.

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James 1:2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

Burkett said, "All mercy flows from him only and freely, as streams from an overflowing and never-failing fountain."

One author writes: **There is no tribulation or affliction that the people of God can fall into, but God can and will comfort them therein:**

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II. He Provides Comfort for us in Our Tribulation
A. The Word Tribulation ~~is~~ here means pressure or to squeeze. It was used to speak of the wine press where the grapes were squeezed to free juice. ~~It~~ we find ourselves squeezed in by trouble Paul vs 8

B. He Comforts us in the Number of Our Tribulation
The word all is a very complex word that means every any, as many as, thoroughly, whatsoever, whose ever in other words all means all. Every trial every situation is filter to the confers, the strengthening of God. James 1:3 said it best. Many a many colored troubles. Troubles come in green (money); red (health); blue (sorrow); plaid (family problems) But no matter what what the tribulation, what is pressing down God is the God of All Comfort; He can come along with spiritual strength, ~~no matter how great~~ ^{the trial} quote

C. He Comforts us in the Necessity of Our Tribulation
This point was of particular blessing to me. This whole phrase "Who comforts us in all our tribulation" indicates that tribulation or trouble is the ground on which comfort stands. What that means is. If I had not known trouble, I would have never known His gracious comfort and strength. While back I read an article of a little girl that feels no pain. Neurological disorder, Parents have to keep a close eye on her. Matter as much as heartbreak it has no lesser burden

III. He Provides Comfort in us for Our Actuation

A. Notice the last phrase, God shows us ^{why} he comforts us. It is not only for us but ^{as well} for others.

B. Our Comforting Encourages Our Actuation - Often when in times of trouble our attention is drawn to ourselves. The old 'woe is me' complex. But when we are comforted of God when burdens are lifted, we are free to serve others, to carry others burdens. Mr 10:45

Our relief is not only for our benefit but for the ^{benefit} of others.

C. Our Comforting Equips Our Actuation - by the comfort where with... When we go through tribulation we need to have our thinking caps on our note books out because God is teaching & training. God brings us through the fire to shape us into instruments of His using. Sail Ministry... Ministry to one that lost his dad.

D. Our Comforting Equals Our Actuation - I love mathematics. In algebra one my teacher taught me that in an equation everything has to stay balanced with respect to the equals sign... To keep a balanced Christian life we must reach out to comfort others, with what God has comforted us with. Church could do with

IV. Closing. He Truly is the God of all Comfort.

Mercy for our sin! Comfort for our trial! Comfort for our actuation!
Do you need the comfort of the cross?

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Do with a few more Barnabas's "the son of encouragement"
Reaching out to others instead of constantly soaking in.

Choir director at Temple taught me so much. Time and time again he taught us to be like a sponge. Not only to soak up and take in, but when we sing to be rung out, poured out to minister to others to encourage others. Don't just sit there and soak!